

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been examined. No claims have been amended.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as Applicants submit that Yamazaki does not teach each element of the rejected claims.

As presently pending, claim 1 claims a metal identification platelet equipped with an identification code that comprises a hologram. Hence, claim 1 specifies that the claimed object is a “metal identification **platelet**”. Similarly, claim 5 is a “method of producing an identification **platelet**”. The commonly understood dictionary definition of a “platelet” is a minute fragment-like structure. While, the term “platelet” may describe minute disc-like fragments within the blood, the specification makes clear that this definition would not apply to the subject claims. Instead, in view of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand a “platelet” to refer to a small article that can provide holographic security features. A platelet could be provided in suspension in a fluid if desired. Indeed, claim 4 recites that the thickness is 1 to 15 μm thick.

The cited portions of Yamazaki, on the other hand, make no reference to such a platelet. The entirety of the translated Yamazaki reference is set forth below.

Purpose: To easily produce the hologram which is added with the image of a specific pattern and is easily visible by forming the light scattering pattern on a part of a recording surface and using this pattern as a register mark for position detection at the time of processing of the hologram.

Constitution: The light scattering patterns 12, 13 partially exposed with the interference patterns formed by the scattering light are formed in a part of the recording surface 10 to be reduced with the hologram image 11 of

the hologram 1. The pattern 13 is used as the register mark to detect the position of the hologram image 11 at the time of processing the product of the hologram 1. The production of the light scattering pattern is executed by superposing the mask pattern 51 and a light scattering plate 52 on a photoresist dry plate 3 exposed with the real image of a subject as the hologram image and exposing the same with light 53. The photoresist dry plate 3 is developed to obtain the original plate of the hologram.

The structures formed, for example, by large-scale sandblasting and screen printing of the Yamazaki process are not equivalent or similar to a “platelet” as recited in the pending claims. Producing a platelet with an identification code, as recited in the claims, presents unique challenges such as, for example, how to equip such a small fragment with a hologram. Yamazaki relates to larger structures and thus, the reference does not address the same challenges confronted by the subject inventors. Thus, Applicants submit that none of claim 1, claim 5 or claims dependent thereon are anticipated or rendered obvious by Yamazaki.

Moreover, with specific reference to method claim 5, nowhere in Yamazaki is there any mention of producing an identification platelet by a process of galvanization, then removing the platelets from a shim. Hence, claim 5 is distinguishable for this additional reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Gale, Mallik and Schaefer. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Gale, Mallik and Schaefer, further in view of Folger. Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Gale, Mallik, Schaefer and Folger, further in view of Sakurai. Claims 1-5 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Hirose.

The combination of references still do not teach or suggest every element of the pending claims. Specifically, none of the documents relate to a “platelet” or a method of

producing a platelet. Gale relates to a method for fabricating a master to be used in hot embossing into a thermoplastic film a diffractive filter. There is no teaching or suggestion of a platelet. Mallik relates to a combination of a hologram film and supporting substrate sheet that produce an image reconstruction. The methods disclosed therein fail to produce a platelet, and intermediate substrate or film structures are not equivalent to the claimed metal platelet, as they do not include a hologram. Schaefer relates to transfer of holographic images onto tubular metal products but in no way discloses the provision of the "platelets" as recited in the pending claims. Schaefer relates to replicating surface-deformation images and does not teach or suggest a platelet. Sakurai relates to a cleaning operation and does not relate to platelets. Hirose relates to a method of printing holograms, but there is no disclosure related to platelets.

Because the cited references do not teach or suggest each of the claimed elements, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 5 and claims dependent thereon are not obvious over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

Appl. No. 10/597,661
Amdt. dated August 18, 2010
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2010

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

/darin j gibby/
Darin J. Gibby
Reg. No. 38,464

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
DJG/cl
62811201 v1